Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for detecting endotoxin, comprising the steps:

a) ~~incubation of~~incubating a sample with a bacteriophage tail protein, and

b) ~~detection of~~detecting endotoxin bonded to bacteriophage tail proteins.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 1, ~~if necessary~~further comprising ~~furthermore~~ after step a) and prior to step b) the additional step of:

a') ~~separation of~~separating the bacteriophage tail protein-endotoxin complexes from the sample.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~one of the claims~~claim 1 ~~to 3~~, ~~the detection being implemented by means of~~wherein detection comprises spectroscopic methods.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for removing endotoxin from a sample, comprising the steps:

a) ~~incubation of~~incubating a sample with or bringing a sample in contact with bacteriophage tail proteins which are immobilised on a permanent carrier, non specifically or directed,

b) ~~separation of~~separating the bacteriophage tail protein-endotoxin complex from the sample.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 4, ~~the~~wherein steps a) and b) ~~being~~are implemented in a chromatography column throughflow method.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 4, wherein the permanent carrier ~~being~~comprises filtration media, glass particles, magnetic particles, centrifugation materials, sedimentation materials or filling materials for chromatography columns.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim ~~4 to 6~~, the bacteriophage tail proteins being immobilised on the permanent carrier via coupling groups.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 7, the coupling group being a lectin, receptor or anticalin.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 7, wherein the coupling group ~~being a~~comprises streptavidin or avidin and the bacteriophage tail proteins ~~being~~is coupled with biotin or a Strep-tag.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim ~~4 to 6~~, the bacteriophage tail proteins being immobilised on the permanent carrier covalently via chemical bonds.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein ~~having~~comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to claim 11, wherein the tag ~~having~~comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 5, 6 or 7.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein the p12 protein of the phage T4 ~~being~~is used as bacteriophage tail protein.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the Ca^{2+} concentration ~~in~~of the incubation ~~being~~comprises 0.1 μM to 10 mM and the Mg^{2+} concentration ~~being~~comprises 0.1 μM to 10 mM.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method according to one of the ~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, marked endotoxin being displaced from the bond with a bacteriophage tail protein and the marked endotoxin being subsequently detected.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the tag comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 5, 6 or 7.

18. (New) The method according claim 16, wherein the p12 protein of the phage T4 being used as bacteriophage tail protein.